



# United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

## First Joint Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa

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### Plenary session VIII: Statutory issues

#### Discussions on the forthcoming forty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission: countries' participation and contribution of the region on the proposed agenda items

#### 1. Background

The Statistical Commission is the apex entity of the global statistical system and is the highest decision-making body for international statistical activities with respect to the setting of statistical standards, the development of concepts and methods, and their implementation at the national, regional and international levels.

The objectives of the Statistical Commission include:

- (a) Promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods;
- (b) Promoting the development of national statistics and improving their comparability;
- (c) Advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information;
- (d) Coordinating the statistical work of specialized agencies.

The forty-sixth session is scheduled to take place from 3 to 6 March 2015 in New York. The provisional annotated agenda for the session has now been posted on the website of the United Nations Statistics Division and is available from:  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2015.htm>. The other session documents are under preparation and will be posted online by the Statistics Division in due course.

As during previous sessions of the Statistical Commission, it is important for African countries to speak with one voice and to harmonize their contributions to the deliberations on the items for discussion. It is therefore proposed that African countries be assigned different agenda items, for which they will take the lead in preparing Africa's common position and make statements on those agenda items during the discussion. This proposal is only tentative and is subject to countries' confirmation that they will be attending the session. Countries are therefore invited to confirm their plans to attend the forty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission, and their willingness to lead the preparation and presentation of their assigned topic on behalf of the continent. Comments regarding the common African position on the various agenda items are welcomed from all countries; please send such inputs to either the Economic Commission for Africa or directly to the country that has been assigned the agenda item in question.

As in the past, a preparatory meeting will be held upon the arrival of the delegates. Information on the exact venue will be communicated to all countries in due course.

## 2. Items for discussion

Please find below the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission and the proposed list of countries assigned to each agenda item.

**Table: Items for discussion**

Items for discussion	Document symbol	Countries to prepare and lead Africa interventions
a. Report of the Friends of the Chair on Broader Measures of Progress	E/CN.3/2015/2	Madagascar
b. Report of the Secretary-General on emerging issue	E/CN.3/2015/3	South Africa
c. Report of the United Nations Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics	E/CN.3/2015/4	Morocco
d. Report of the Secretary-General on transformative agenda for official statistics	E/CN.3/2015/5	Cabo Verde
e. Report of the Secretary-General on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses and preparation for the 2020 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses	E/CN.3/2015/6	Senegal
f. Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the International Classification on Crime for Statistics	E/CN.3/2015/7	Niger
g. Report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on crime statistics	E/CN.3/2015/8	United Republic of Tanzania
h. Report of Statistics Norway and	E/CN.3/2015/9	Uganda

the Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Refugees  
on refugee statistics

i.	Report of the World Bank on improving household surveys in developing countries: issues and recommendations	E/CN.3/2015/10	Angola
j.	Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts	E/CN.3/2015/11	Cameroon
k.	Report of the Friends of the Chair on the Measurement of International Trade and Economic Globalization	E/CN.3/2015/12	Mauritius
l.	Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting	E/CN.3/2015/13	Mozambique
m.	Report of the Friends of the Chair on the evaluation of the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme	E/CN.3/2015/14	Ethiopia
n.	Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme	E/CN.3/2015/15	Nigeria
o.	Report of the Global Steering Committee and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics	E/CN.3/2015/16	Burkina Faso
p.	Report of Cabo Verde on governance, peace and security statistics	E/CN.3/2015/17	Côte d'Ivoire
q.	Report of the Friends of the Chair on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	E/CN.3/2015/18	Sudan
r.	Report of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on statistical activities in Latin America and the Caribbean: Recent achievements and next challenges	E/CN.3/2015/19	Zambia

### 3. Way forward

- a) The Joint Session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa is invited to comment on the above proposals for the preparation of the forty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission;
- b) Countries are invited to start preparing for their attendance at the forty-sixth session;
- c) Regional organizations are invited to assist those countries that may not be able to attend the forty-sixth session owing to a lack of resources.